

OPEN Arms

August 1998 * Vol 10 Number 8

P.O. Box 845 Mishawaka, IN 46546

There is a saying, "Things Get Better With Age".

This could nicely apply to Open Arms. With the hard work and dedication of just a few people, I find it to be a very informative monthly newsletter. I was one of the early subscribers when it consisted of 1 page and the only social activity was a monthly potluck with 3 Basic Ground Rules: 1) No men 2) No smoking 3) No alcohol

#1 was understandable as this was an all women event, but a few of the organizers detested men and made every attempt to let their feelings be known and to instill these thoughts in others. #'s 2 & 3 were a joke.

After some pressure, you could smoke outside. At the 1st potluck, there was widespread Pot smoking and although there was no alcohol allowed, individuals showed up half lit or went to their cars and drank. As time went on, the paper got a new influx of contributors and we saw a gradual change to cover a wide topic range, such as religious functions, AIDS, children and yes, even a mention of men. You know, I always found it strange how some of us have male children and brothers and say we love them dearly, but detest men!

Credit should be given to the starters, even tho some might not have approved of the way things were done, it was a start, and without that, Open Arms would not be where it is today. Current staff is doing a superb job; very dedicated, with a strong desire to keep us all well informed. They are always looking for help tho. We need you gals-give one of the staff a call if you can help. Staff meetings are only once a month.

Commitment '98

The 13th Annual GLBT AA Round-up is to be held at the Milwaukee County War Memorial, 700 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI., September 4, 5, & 6th.

Commitment begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday morning with a spiritual breakfast. **Full Registration** includes: Friday & Sat. workshops, pizza party, dance and Sunday breakfast is \$35.00 if received by August 1st. After August 1st, full registration is \$40.

Registration for Saturday events only is \$20.00 by August 1st & after Aug. 1st, \$25. **Registration for Sunday events only** is \$15.00

To register: Remit checks payable to Commitment '98, P.O. Box 92794, Milwaukee, WI. 53202. Please include your name, address, phone number and 12-Step program affiliation on a separate sheet of paper. You may also register or obtain more information by visiting our website at <http://www.execpc.com/~reva/html1com.htm> (that's the number 1, not an "L" before com) or e-mail John B. at blaszcz@csd.uwm.edu or by calling (414) 282-3705



Whistle Stop....C League Softball Schedule Aug. 7....vs. Health Resources

Note: Official schedule and Ballpark is found on
CITYLINE, 674-0900 x-2233 or 235-6178 x-2233

From PFLAG.....A group of Christians from the Anabaptist tradition has begun gathering on Sunday evenings to worship and fellowship together. We are committed to welcoming and including persons of any age, ability, economic status, background, race, gender or sexual orientation. Circle of Hope Mennonite Fellowship is a member of the Supporting Congregations Network (SCN) a network of Mennonite, and Church of the Brethren congregations which welcomes gay, lesbian and bisexual members. Meeting time: 4: P.M. on Sundays at LaCasa, 202 N. Cottage Ave., Goshen, IN. For more info: Bob 219-534-2718, Wilma 219-534-7232, Karen 219-294-3868, Jane 219-533-9484

Other Welcoming Churches in the area:

Central United Methodist Church, 1920 S. Michigan St. South Bend, IN 219-289-7725

Sunday school 9:30 am, Worship service 10:15 am Pastor: Reverend Mary L. Hubbard

Church of the Good Shepherd in Exile, Broadway Christian Parish, 1412 S. Carroll St., South Bend, IN 219-287-0889

Sunday Worship Service 7 PM Pastor: Reverend Larry Ort, Rev. Stephen Wetmore, Co-pastor

Southside Christian Church, 1329 E. Jackson Rd., South Bend, IN. 219-291-1156

Sunday school 9:00 am, Worship service 10:00 am Pastor: Martha L. Carroll

New Life Community Church of Hope, 5257 Cameron Drive, La Porte, IN. 219-778-2803 or 219-778-9332

Sunday service 11:30 am Pastor: Randy Duncan

Unitarian Universalist, 5301 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne, IN. Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am

Unity by the Lake, 2703 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph, MI. 616-465-6689

Phoenix Church c/o Peoples Church, 1758 N. 10th St., Kalamazoo, MI.

Catholic/Episcopal LG of Kalamazoo, call Tom 616-372-1222



NEW SOCIAL/ACTIVITY GROUP FORMS IN AREA

Southwest Michigan's newest Gay/Lesbian social and activity group was born in January 1998. Community Spirit, organized in St. Joseph, has brought together gays and lesbians from St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, Niles, Dowagiac, Bridgeman and the surrounding towns. Biweekly meetings offer us a chance to network, meet friends, enjoy gay/lesbian videos and join lively discussions on issues, concerns and news that affect us all. The group plans events and activities including dances, Pride field trips, beach parties, video and game nights and theater/concert outings to other cities. Community Spirit meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month for entertainment, discussion, friendship, videos, games and fun. In addition to regular meetings, special events include July Beach Pride, Halloween Costume Dance (Oct. 24), and Thanksgiving Day Feast and Fun (Nov. 26). For more info on Community Spirit, our Events Calendar and meeting location, call Julie Kimball at 616-982-1300 or Terry Kuseski at 616-925-7371, or e-mail Julie at MsJKK2U@aol.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

August 11- 16th.....Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Continuing strong after 23 years, the week-long event is situated on 650 acres of secluded forest and meadows and attracts 5-8000 womyn who make the trip to enjoy the energy and influence of a community of womyn. Highlighting the event: musical performances, 300 intensive workshops that range from a half day to a week-long, over 130 craftswomyn from throughout North America, and a film festival screening new and exciting works on film and video. Artists scheduled to appear this year include Sweet Honey in the Rock, Indigo Girls, Alice Walker, Ferron, Toshi Reagon & Big Lovely, Karen Finley, Marga Gomez, The Topp Twins, Ubaka Hill, Kinnie Starr, Carole Pope, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie, and others.. For more info....WWTMC, P.O.Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 or call 616-757-4766; on the web...www.michfest.com

August 21-23 Sisters in a Strange Land:

A retreat for Christian Lesbians at a retreat center near Lake Michigan in southwest Michigan. We will explore how lesbians are challenging and reshaping Christian spirituality from a feminist perspective. Call for info: 517-855-2277 or write: Leaven, PO Box 23233, Lansing, MI 48909....from LC

"SINGLED OUT"

Sunday, August 23, 4:00 p.m. The singles group will do a Weko Beach Party one more time. We had a great time in June. Join us for one last time to sit, eat, walk the beach, swim, talk and laugh!! We will meet on the right side of the Pavillion where there are some shade trees. The time is 4:00 p.m. If you'd like to car pool or follow, we meet at Southside Church at 2:45 and leave there at 3:00. Bring your own food. It is a pretty fun time and the sunsets are beautiful over the water! Hope you can make it! If you need directions or more info please call Linda 219-257-9082 or Lynn 219-259-6801

Saturday, August 29.....Lavender Rythm is having a summer dance.....Wimmin Only 8 to 12, Ind. & 9 to 1 Mich. Time At the Pickwick Place, 214 N. 4th Street in Niles, Michigan \$7.00 at the door, for info call 616-684-7362

Sunday, September 6... Midwest Womyn's Autumn Fest DeKalb, Illinois (65 miles west of Chicago)

Gates open up at 11am, One day with workshops, crafts and music performers including Ferron, Alice DiMichele, Jamie Anderson, Ann Reed, & others. \$25 Advance, \$32 gate info: autumnfest@aol.com

Saturday, September 12.....Ohio Lesbian Festival

Frontier Ranch, Kirkersville, Ohio 11am-11pm (rain or shine) Market area with over 70 vendors, workshops, food & beverages and performers, Lucy Blue Trembley, Marga Gomez, Slammin' Babes (June & Jean Millington) and others \$24 Advance \$30 at the gate..... For info: P.O. Box 82086, Columbus, Ohio 43202 or call 614-267-3953

September 7 - 13th.....Womenfest in Key West, Florida

Boat trips, Dive trips, Dinners, Dancing, Film festival, Sunset sails, Pool Parties, Water volleyball, Wet t-shirt contest, and more.... SASE: Womenfest, 201 Copitt Road, #106A, Key West, FL 33040 or call Jacqueline Harrington 305-296-4238

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY. 7-9 P.M. FOR INFO: WRITE TO LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center

C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level
629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001 voice mail: (616) 349-4234

Lesbian Growth & Support Group meets Monday nights 7-8:30 pm, Fort Wayne Woman's Bureau at 303 E. Washington, Fort Wayne. For More Info....219-424-7977 Also in Fort Wayne...Gay/Lesbian Helpline 219-744-1199 Mon.-Thurs., 7-10 pm, Fri.-Sat, 7-Midnight, Sun, 8-9 pm

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

Meetings are from 2 to 4 p.m. the fourth Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cleveland Road, South Bend. For More Information...Nancy Mascotte 219-277-2684 or write P.O. Box 4195, South Bend, 46634-4195

SAPPHOS NETWORK

A support/study/social group for North Central Indiana, P.O. Box 118, Kewanna, IN 46939-0118 (219) 595-7542

NORTH/CENTRAL ALLIANCE

A way to make new friends and have a good time. Located in the Kokomo, Tipton, Logansport, Marion and Frankfort area of North/Central Indiana.... North/Central Alliance, P.O. Box 186, Kokomo, IN. 46903. Voice Mail...317-454-8868

National Organization for Women (NOW)

The Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month from 7 - 9 pm, St. Joseph County Public Library, Main Branch, South Bend

Battle Creek Concord Group

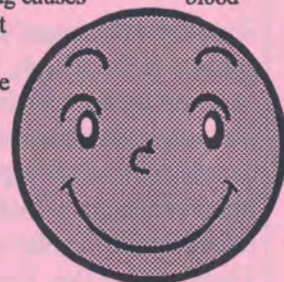
meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 7 to 9 P.M. We are a group of gay & lesbians who enjoy laughing with old friends and meeting new friends. For more info, please call JR (616-962-6672) or Lynn (616-963-5873) or Arlene (616-988-9563)

from Kate Clinton's column in July's issue of *The Progressive*

writing about Viagra, the new blue potency drug, dubbed "Pfizer's Riser."

Yes, we have the Viagra was hastily scrawled on a lid ripped from a pizza box and tacked up in the prescription department of my local apothecary. When I asked the frazzled young pharmacist at the counter if she had been filling a lot of requests for the drug, she glowered at me through lowered eyelids. When I asked who was getting the drug, she said flatly, "Old guys with canes." By the way, I also asked my pharmacist if any women were taking the drug. She nodded yes. The drug causes blood flow to the penis, and even though women don't have penises (exceptions: Margaret Thatcher, Camille Paglia, and Marge Schott), doctors have prescribed it for some women patients. One woman said the drug helped her reach orgasm in half an hour compared to her usual hour and a half.

Instead of Viagra, I would have prescribed a girlfriend.



GAYS AND AGING PARENTS

By Lee Lynch



Oh joy! It's time for gay boomers to deal not only with the right wing, the epidemic of breast cancer, HIV, the greenhouse effect, aging bodies and mass downsizing, but old parents! Is this the true measure of being grownups, watching the onset of parental infirmity, making life care decisions, learning about mortality another hard way? Wake me when it's over, pul-eeze!

Our friends Dot and Dotty, whom we sometime call Dot and Dottier, sometimes Dot and Dash, have been living with Dot's mom for years. Mom was sweet and warm and very old. She just passed on and will leave a hole in all our lives.

I don't know another couple, gay or straight, who've done what the Dots have -- made that commitment to keep an old and ill parent at home. Mom went everywhere with them. If she couldn't go, at least one of them stayed with her. Mom never went into a nursing home. She never even had to go to a hospital.

Dot and Dotty received incredible help from a Hospice team. "It's one of the few non-judgmental groups available to help us," Dot told me. "They were really interested in every family member and happy that Dotty and I would remain a family unit. The Hospice Chaplain said it was a privilege to head the graveside service. Her support was really valuable -- the spiritual part of care is all too often denied to our people."

Could I do what they've done? No way. Not that my own family doesn't deserve it. Not that I don't want the best for those who raised and tried to nurture me. Good intentions simply can't translate into good deeds for many of us.

The reasons? Personality, closets, distance, bad history, the blessing of abler siblings, work responsibilities -- there are so many reasons I can't do what Dot and Dotty have done.

It wasn't just the constant care that was difficult. There were lesbian gatherings to which Dot, Dottie and Mom simply could not go, where a invalid non-gay mother was equivalent to a boy child. They'd graciously stay away, since Mom couldn't be left alone and they didn't have the means to hire a mom-sitter even if they could find one who was trustworthy.

When they did bring Mom to an event, I was surprised to see so many people, of all ages, unnerved. Perfectly pleasant women and men would ignore Mom entirely, or greet her and then forget she existed. True, Mom didn't have much to say, but a hug went a long way, and an interested voice, whether Mom could make out all the words or not, put a big smile on her face.

I COULD take care of my buddy Norma. In her final months she went from home to hospital to foster care, to assisted living and finally to a rehabilitation facility. Though for the last six months I lived five hours away, I visited my lesbian "parent" about every six weeks and called daily. As part of an informal support network of Norma's lesbian friends, I took her shopping, pushed her wheel chair, filled her oxygen, helped her in the bathroom and performed a dozen little tasks that I'd be less comfortable doing for any blood relative. Between the telephone and e-mail I was even able to participate in planning her care. What goes around comes around. My younger cousin does for my mother what I did for Norma.

Of course it works both ways. I know a queen, an only child, who hasn't seen his parents since they found out he was gay. Won't they need him? I ask when he guesses them to be close to ninety. "They can deal with it!" he says. But he doesn't know how he'd respond to a dying plea for forgiveness. Abandoned children of non-gay parents can get pretty hungry for love whenever it comes.

I need to take care of myself. But it's a source of much self flagellation -- not being willing to sacrifice Lover, home, roots, career and, yes, closet, to help a parent feel more secure, to return the care taking I once needed.

As I write this the funeral service for Dot's mom is ending. Their life will be so different now that they have a life of their own. Dotty said on the phone, "I have no guilt." I envy that feeling -- not enough to follow in their footsteps, but enough to have to reassure myself I'm making the right choice for me.

Dot and Dotty are role models for anyone, gay or non-gay, in caring for elders. Where circumstances allow, it can be done. It does end. It has its rewards.

One of which, for me, was getting to know Dot and Dotty as lesbians, as friends and especially, as a family.



NATUROPATHY

By Susan Myers, R.N., LCSW, HTP,
Holistic health counselor

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Also known as "natural medicine" or "nature cure". Naturopathy developed in the late 19th century, founded on an ancient belief in the power of the body to heal itself. Naturopaths believe that the body's natural state is one of equilibrium, which can be disturbed by an unhealthy lifestyle. They look for the underlying causes of a problem rather than treating symptoms alone, combining diet and noninvasive therapies where possible to stimulate the healing process. Naturopathy is practiced throughout the Western world and some of its principles have been adopted by conventional medicine.

Some aspects of naturopathy have common ground with other ancient holistic health systems, such as Traditional Chinese Medicine and Ayurveda, which share the belief that the body has an innate power to heal itself. In naturopathy this power is known as the "vital force". Many of the principles of naturopathy can be found in the work of the Greek physician Hippocrates. He said that health could be maintained by a balance of rest, exercise, and plain food in moderation, while cures should be as natural as possible to stimulate the body ability to heal itself.

The term "naturopathy" was coined in 1895 by Dr. John Scheel of New York, but the system grew out of the "nature cures" popular in the 19th century spa towns in Austria and Germany. Naturopathy was introduced in the US in the 1890's by Benedict Lust who founded the American School of Naturopathy in New York in 1896.

KEY PRINCIPLES: Modern naturopaths believe the body will always strive toward good health, or homeostasis and that the body is its own best healer. They maintain that many factors, such as an unhealthy diet, a lack of sleep, exercise, or fresh air, any emotional or physical stress, pollution in the environment, even negative attitudes, allow waste products and toxins to build up in the body and upset self-regulation. This in turn can overload the immune system and weaken the vital force, the body's innate ability to maintain good health. If this vital force is weakened, the body becomes susceptible to viruses, bacteria, and allergens.

Naturopaths believe that symptoms such as fever or inflammation are signs of the body's self-healing powers at work, and advise against suppressing such symptoms, since that can cause disorders to "go underground," becoming chronic and causing further degeneration. Rather than treating symptoms directly, naturopaths work to improve underlying health so that the patient is less susceptible to infection.

Naturopathic medicine's basic principles are: 1) Utilize the healing power of nature; 2) First, do no harm; 3) Find the cause; 4) Treat the whole person; 5) Utilize preventive medicine. Naturopathic treatments are as non-invasive as possible. Some practitioners specialize in a particular approach, while others draw on a wide range of techniques. Some of the most commonly used treatments include clinical

nutrition and fasting; hydrotherapy; physical therapies, including osteopathy or chiropractic, massage, and physiotherapy; counseling and lifestyle modification; herbal medicine; homeopathy; Traditional Chinese Medicine; light therapy; touch therapies including massage; acupressure; shiatsu, reflexology and healing touch; and yoga.

Some conditions treated effectively with naturopathy include but are not limited to: degenerative and long term conditions, such as arthritis and asthma; Rheumatoid arthritis; depression; fatigue and chronic fatigue syndrome; High blood pressure, hardening of the arteries; PMS; gastrointestinal problems, such as ulcers; and skin conditions.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Naturopathic Physicians (NDs) are well educated in the basic clinical sciences as well as natural and alternative diagnostic and treatment methods. According to the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, "NDs are general practitioners trained as specialists in natural medicine. They are educated in the conventional medical sciences, but they are not orthodox medical doctors. NDs treat disease and restore health using therapies listed above. They tailor these approaches to the needs of the individual. In choosing a Naturopathic physician, determine if the practitioner has graduated from an accredited naturopathic medical school; is a recognized member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians; and is licensed to practice in one of the "licensable states" (Alaska, Az, CONN, FL, HAWAII, MA, MO, NH, OR, UT, VT, and WA). It is believed by the year 2010, all 50 states will license naturopathic physicians.

Organizations associated with Naturopathic medicine include:

American Association of Naturopathic Physicians,
818 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 900 Washington, DC 20006
Bastyr University of Natural Health Sciences ,
144 N.E. 54th St. Seattle, WA. 98102 (206) 523-9585
National College of Naturopathic Medicine,
11231 S.E. Market St. Portland, OR 97216 (503) 255-4860

References:

Encyclopedia of healing therapies: Woodham and Peters;
Five steps to selecting the best alternative practitioner: Morton

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Okay, all you singles! Looking for that special someone? Here is your opportunity to reach out to other singles.

Write out what you want other singles to know about you and what you are seeking in another. Open Arms will run your ad for 2-3 months. You can resubmit/or cancel at any time.

Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

Send your ad to:

The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546
You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue. Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in PENCIL on the front of the envelope. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to the Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#76.....Looking for Friendship/Commitment

A 28 year old WF that is faithful and trustworthy. I'm also a non-smoker. I enjoy music, movies, playing darts and pool. I like to go out as well as stay home and I love animals. I'm looking for someone with the same interests that would enjoy making a new friend and maybe a lover.

#77.....Mature 29 year old in search of woman in her 30's. Honest, affectionate, spiritual and good communication skills a must! I have been called attractive and feminine. I am a professional but am playful and down-to-earth. I love walks on the beach, quiet times together, music, bicycling for leisure, movies and creative endeavors such as candle making, stained glass and the list goes on. I am a non-smoker, non-drug user, drink an occasional glass of wine (would prefer the same). I would like a feminine woman who is secure with who she is and assertive with her beliefs and ideals. I am searching for depth. Please respond and let's meet for a coke/cup of coffee. Friends first.

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\$\$\$ in Real Estate investing...219-291-2342 or 291-2482

Welding techniques taught by Zealla Flores
219-233-7436 ext. 22

We would be happy to add your service and telephone # to this column for free; just send the information to
P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN. 46546

RECEIVED VIA E-MAIL: Philadelphia Daily News, June 23

Anti-gay prophecies doom many to be victims of violence;
by Debbie Woodell (sports desk editor for the Philly News)

What is more frightening - Pat Robertson's prophecy of doom for Orlando, Florida, or someone helping it come true? After Disney World hosted Gay Days in June and the city allowed the display of hundreds of gay pride rainbow flags, Robertson issued this stern warning on "The 700 Club", his show on his Christian Broadcasting Network: "I would warn Orlando that you are right in the way of some serious hurricanes, and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you. The presence of homosexuality, he warned, would bring about earthquakes, tornadoes, terrorist bombings and maybe even a meteor strike." Plagues and locusts must be passe. His comments were funny in a sick sort of way, for about a minute, until you realize that someone might actually take him seriously. Oh, someone already has? That would be a 19 year old from Orlando, who is accused of ripping down dozens of those rainbow flags because he worried that God's wrath would rain down on the city. This kid believed Robertson. Yes, it's that time again. Gay Pride Month and the accompanying Gay Bashing Month the religious right seems to commemorate each June. Congressional leaders compares us to addicts and kleptomaniacs - we can't help it and need pity. Others flat-out call us "sinners." Also, before Robertson's "prophecy," the radical Operation Rescue, known more for its attempts to "rescue" women from abortions, picketed at Disney World in the hope of "rescuing" gay people from their sinful and depraved ways. In these cases, you can only shake your head in dismay. OK, so it was only property destroyed in Orlando. Those flags can be recovered or replaced, if they haven't been already. And if you cannot trust The Weather Channel to be 100 % correct, with all that fancy equipment, how can we expect Robertson's prediction - meteorological and meteoric to be accurate? But what happens when someone thinks Robertson is dead serious about terrorist attacks and is dead serious about carrying out those attacks? It has been only a little more than two years since a bomber targeted a lesbian nightclub outside Atlanta. Only minor injuries were reported, fortunately, but I suspect the bomber was unhappy about a low body count. I suspect a warning was not what he had in mind. I can only suspect these things, because no one has been arrested. We know only that the claim of responsibility came from the Army of God. And now we have Pat Robertson, he of the Cheshire cat smile, he who coats his "prophecy" by calling it a message of "redemption" giving someone carte blanche to blow up Orlando or any other place that someone thinks is threatened by gay people. So far, life in Orlando and other gay communities goes on. So far, God's wrath is only in Robertson's fertile imagination. But I have a prediction too. I did not turn to the Bible, but relied instead on my own God-given common sense: someone will get killed or seriously hurt because of what Robertson said. My crystal ball is not clear enough to show whether it will be a teen-age boy fatally beaten in an alley or a community center ripped apart by a blast. Maybe both. But someone will try to get in God's and Robertson's good graces. Then, Robertson will offer words of condolences and sorrow and try to exonerate himself by reiterating that he never preached hate. Then he will make more ghastly predictions and raise millions more by playing on peoples fears. And others will follow his lead. Robertson and other false prophets will face their own Judgement Day before God and they will have to answer for all the destruction they caused.

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Please send submissions to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845,
Mishawaka, IN. 46546

For more info contact any staff member.....

e-mail address mbdjkj@juno.com

e-mail address suze3@juno.com

Kaye & Marcia.....219-271-0338

Suze.....219-254-8676 (beeper)



Lilith Fair makes money, but draws feminist critics by Sue Zeidler

Los Angeles (Reuters) Lilith Fair, the all-female music tour, confounded music industry naysayers last year by selling more tickets than male-dominated festivals, like Lollapalooza. But organizers are facing a backlash as the festival, featuring women stars such as Sarah McLachlan and Bonnie Riatt, draws even bigger crowds this summer with an expanded tour of 57 shows in 41 cities across America. Critics claim that Lilith Fair, which bills itself as a "celebration of women's music," is too commercial and not serious enough about feminist and political issues. "Lilith Fair may be profit-heavy but beyond that it's feminism-lite, rock-lite and quality-lite," writer Gina Arnold said in an article in New Times Los Angeles in which she described the festival as "profit masquerading as activism." "You can't please everybody all the time," sighed Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter McLachlan, who is credited with coming up with the notion of Lilith Fair. "This festival comes from a good place. We're all trying to do the best we can and it does get hurtful when people almost assault our morality," she said before a recent Lilith Fair at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. McLachlan and the other festival participants contend the show was never intended as a feminist counterrevolution.

WHERE ARE THE MEN?

To be sure, men and mosh pits are in short supply, while the mostly female attendees enjoy a benevolent day filled with ballads and vendors selling dresses, jewelry and nail polish. "Lilith Fair never said it was going to be a hard-core feminist or political forum," said Lhasa, an up-and-coming singer with just one name who also performed at the concert. McLachlan got the idea after encountering resistance from radio stations and concert promoters who refused to put two female acts back-to-back on the air or on a concert bill. Infuriated, the 30-year-old Canadian songstress challenged the industry's odds and booked a tour in 1996 featuring herself with singer-songwriter Paula Cole as the warmup act. The tour was a big hit and Lilith Fair was born the next year, racking up \$16 million in ticket sales. With audiences that are 60 to 70% female and between the ages of 16 and 35, Lilith Fair tapped into a demographic with huge commercial potential. For the first time in the history of the \$12 billion U.S. music industry, women bought more music than men last year, according to Recording Industry Association of America. This year's tour, which also features Sinead O'Connor, Natalie Merchant, Indigo Girls and Shawn Colvin, is expected to generate \$25 million in ticket sales.

NO PUNCH?

The critics say that with all its clout, Lilith Fair treads too softly and distances itself from radicalism for fear of being called "man-bashers." Laurie Fuchs, director of Ladyslipper, a distributor of music by women said, "Lilith Fair is wonderful but unfortunately all the hype has failed to acknowledge earlier festivals, which have been going on since 1974. They've been largely ignored, another example of women being trivialized." Both the National Women's Music Festival and the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, dating back to the 1970's, are largely and wrongfully labeled male-bashing or lesbian events. "More accurately, these festivals are celebrating women's talents and many people opened the door for this much more mainstream event (Lilith Fair) to happen." Kathy Spillar, national coordinator for the Feminist Majority says, "These women performers are role models and I think much of the music is serious and consciousness-raising as well." Spillar said feminist organizations hand out educational material and sign up activists at Lilith Fair. "Both Planned Parenthood and Rock For Choice, our project to mobilize the music industry, have tables at many of the shows." Jennifer Einhorn of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance against Defamation said, "In an industry still steeped in traditional norms, Sarah's vision and stunning economic success speaks volumes for the fact that Lilith Fair, by definition, is a political entity whose impact on men and women is immeasurable." And Lilith Fair donates \$1 of each ticket sold to charities.



Cathy Lambert, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

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1



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2

3



Happy Birth-
day Paula D.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11



Best Wishes
to Cheryl S.

12



Melissa S.

13

14



Happy B-day
to Julie B.

15

16

17

Judy K. &
Carol S.'s
birthday



18

19



Sherrill F.

20



Debe W. &
Paula S.
Best wishes

21

22



Birthday
wishes To
Nancy W.

23



Marcia D.

24

25

26

Women's
Equality Day

27



Michele G.

28

29

30

31

FRAN'S
BIRTHDAY



This Month: Celebrating their
anniversaries:

10th, Kaye & Marcia
12th, Betty & Phyllis
22nd, Pam & Barb
CONGRATULATIONS!!



August 26, 1920 the 19th amendment
signed into law giving women the vote

Playing at the Electric Brew,
136 S. Main, Goshen,
August 22, the musical duo *Wishing Chair*,
Lesbian singer/songwriters who have
performed at the National Women's Music
Festival. It should be an excellent
performance.

Coming in September to the Brew:
12th, Heather Kropf, singer/songwriter
from Pittsburg, PA (Goshen College Grad.)
19th, Tonya Savory, singer/songwriter
from Louisville, KY
25th, Heather McLeod, singer/songwriter
from Montreal, Quebec

Open Arms urges you to support wimmin's
music by attending these performances